

The Chamber Connection; Getting along in a Busy Community!

By T. Myers

During the busiest time of the year it is important for all of us to take a moment or two to consider what it will be like to work with many collaborative community partners!

What am I talking about? Let's just go over the upcoming events.

Let's Pull Together on June 6th. The City hosts a day with Deschutes County to clean up the downtown area. Many volunteers meet and take on a part of the project to rid the main tourist area of trash and noxious weeds. By the time the day is over, the city center looks very presentable and because of the many volunteers, several of the arterial streets look good, too. People and organizations work together to accomplish a big task using many hands to make light work!

The L&S Gardens Rhubarb Festival on June 13th. Linda Stephenson works for months to organize the many vendors, events and contests for the big one day event at her nursery on Huntington Road. There are Dutch oven cooks, bakers, Senior Center Pies, vendor booths that sell a variety of products and several entertainment venues to make the crowds happy during the event. She has added a beer and wine booth and a beer contest for brews made out of or with Rhubarb. When you add in her nursery sales of Specialty Rhubarb items and cold weather plants, the tasting and lunch menu items to purchase, it is a hugely popular and organization mad event. The Library sells books at their nook, the Ya Ya Sisterhood has a great garage sale to raise money for their charities and on top of all of these things, L&S Gardens picks a charity that benefits from the event each year. (Stephenson hands over a check to the recipient and it is an impactful sum of money that comes from the Rhubarb Festival Proceeds.)

The High Lakes Car Club Show and Shine comes on the last Saturday in June on June 27th. They host it at the Senior Center and many organization contribute door prizes and work to help with food and other events during the day long car event. Organizations working together to help out the car club works every year to make the day a great community event that sparks interest in La Pine from every region!

La Pine Frontier Days opens on July 2nd through the 4th with over 130 booths and 20 of the booths are given away free to nonprofits from our area. Besides the participation of many local organizations, we have groups like the NJROTC, the 4-H Swine clubs and the Blue Lightening Mat Club who do projects like running the trash collection and the Little Train rides for children. The Skate Club does the dunk tank, Coop and Garden Tour prepares for their annual August event, Lions sell Pancake Breakfast, Scouts work to gain members and help at the event. The Community Kitchen works on food service inside the big building this year and they are partnering with LPRD to raise funds for both organizations. There will be a

big quilt show sponsored by local quilters and the displays are in the big building. Look for an LPRD booth to let the community learn about all of the LPRD programs through the summer and fall. Many folks come to help set up the entire vendor village (midway) and the big tents and do not miss the elected officials serving up a big Woodcutter's Breakfast on the 4th at 6:30 AM. There will be new contests, the 4th of July Parade, lawn mower races, Woodcutter event and free on stage entertainment on all three nights finishing the festivities at 10 PM on the 4th with fireworks! Come and meet Miss Frontier Days, Micaela Miller, at the event. She will be featured in the parade and at different booths during the holiday fun!

La Pine Rodeo kicks off the annual rodeo on July 2nd-5th with performing artist Chris Cagle (\$20) at the Rodeo grounds. The next three days that follow are full of events and admission at the door is available to one and all. The rodeo is always fun for the family and they cater to people of all ages for their different events (Mutton busting for the little riders and a variety of sanctioned rodeo events for everyone else!) The rodeo is sponsored by several organizations (Can Cancer and others), and the Rodeo Board works hard all year to prepare this event for the public to enjoy. Come see the La Pine Rodeo Queen, Shelby Brinkley, and visiting royalty at the events!

Organizations working together to make events better for everyone! That's how we roll in La Pine!